

Dr. William Stokes, Director
NICEATM (MD EC-17), NIEHS
P.O. Box 12233
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709

Dear Dr. Stokes:

We recently learned that the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences has asked the public to comment on the findings of the scientists at a recent NIEHS workshop and on the use of in-vitro cell cultures as a replacement for lethal animal tests.

We have for many, many years been in favor of banning or at least phasing out the incredibly cruel and unnecessary LD50 Test, and over the years more and more members of the scientific community have come to agree with this. The LD50 test has slowly been phased out internationally, especially in Europe, and been replaced with tests that use fewer animals, or, even better, no animals at all. We know without any doubt that animals suffer just as human beings do. We are not scientists, but according to everything we have read, **non-animal tests are more scientifically sound** than animal tests, not to mention the fact that they involve no cruelty to animals. As human beings, people who care about all living things, and, of course, taxpayers, we believe that science is best served by using non-animal tests such as the in-vitro cell culture tests. We do not want our tax dollars to pay for tests and experiments which use unscientific and incredibly cruel animal tests.

We therefore ask that you begin to completely replace lethal dose testing with non-animal, in vitro testing methods. It's better science, it's better for humans and it certainly will save a huge number of animals from enormous suffering. Thank you.

Nadine May and Enrique M. Tevar